

SERMON HANDOUT for May 7, 2023



Sermon Series: The Elephant In The Room  
“WHAT ABOUT THE COLOR OF MY SKIN? (RACE & RACISM)” – Part 3  
Romans 10:12-13 NKJV  
Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

**Quote for the Week**

*Hating others is like burning down your house to get rid of a rat.*

**PRE-INTRODUCTION**

**SCRIPTURE**

† **Romans 10:12-13 NKJV**

**RESOURCES**

- *Let's Get to Know Each Other: What White and Black Christians Need to Know About Each Other*, Dr. Tony Evans
- *The Bible is Black History*, Dr. Theron Williams

**LAST WEEK:**

- 1) MYTHS HAVE UNBELIEVABLE POWER IF LEFT UNCHECKED!
- 2) SO HOW WAS THIS MYTH CREATED?

**THIS WEEK:**

**3) SO, WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BLACKS?**

The Bible can give a clear perspective of Black people, both in biblical and church history:

**a) The Bible is the Inerrant Word of God:**

The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God.

It is the only place we can go to receive a totally accurate and objective understanding of race.

- **Inerrant**      *Incapable of being wrong!*
- **Infallible**    *Incapable of making mistakes!*
- **Authoritative** *Able to be trusted as being accurate or true!*
- Reliable on many levels:

**1. Authorship**

- Written over 1,500 years

- Three continents: (Europe [Italy], Africa, Asia [Iraq])
- 40 authors
- 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
- Various genres (law, history, religious poetry, lyric poetry, parable and allegory, biography, personal correspondence, personal memoirs)
- 5-year authenticating study in 1981 => ONE AUTHOR

## 2. Historicity

- **Historical Accuracy** is based on number of manuscripts from the origin  
Plays by Sophocles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC = 200 extant manuscripts  
Plato's Tetralogies, AD 895 = 200+ extant manuscripts  
Homer's Illiad, 400 BC, most of any classical work = less than 2,000  
Greek New Testament manuscripts = 5,800+ (2.6 million pages)  
Old & New Testaments combined = 66,000 manuscripts/scrolls
- **Resiliency**  
Bible is most popular book of ALL TIME!  
Bible is most widely distributed book of ALL TIME! (in the billions)  
Printed, Internet, Digital Media  
799 languages  
Over 200 million downloads  
Most attacked, scrutinized, persecuted – YET SOLIDLY WITHSTANDS  
– Bernard Ramm, professor of religion  
*“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and the committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put. No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified.”*

### b) The Bible is a Multiracial Book

- Whites and blacks have used and misused race to their own advantages.
- During the era of slavery whites overestimated themselves and blacks underestimated themselves.
- Bible allows us to contradict blacks who would write off the Bible as a white man's book and Christianity as a white man's religion.
- Scripture allows black people to take pride in who we are and what God has made us.
- Acts 17:26 NKJV – Only one human race.
- “Black” – a term of accommodation, genetic lineage of African Americans and its affinity with peoples of ancient Near East and Egypt.

- **Dark-complexioned people played a very prominent role in biblical events and history.**
- Color black is used in the Bible to refer to the skin tone of any dark-complexioned people from African or Hamitic descent.
- Not in a derogatory way but a means of identification.
- Gen.35:18, “Ben-Oni” = “son of my sorrow” / “Benjamin” = “son of my right hand”
- Exo. 15:23, Gave names to places to describe experiences they had in that place. “Marah” = “bitter.”
- 1Sam. 25:25, “Nabal” = “fool” (Name reflected the character of a person.
- Names changed to indicate a change in character or relationship.
- Gen. 32:27; 35:20, “Jacob” to “Israel”
- Matt. 16:17-18, “Simon” to “Peter”

### c) **The Bible Identifies Blacks by Names**

Names are often used in the Bible to refer to skin tone of dark-complexioned people.

**Let’s remove our western orientation filter, and understand this is not based on derogatory reasons but for identification.**

- “Kedar” means “to be dark” (Gen.25:13; Ps.120:5).
- “Phinehas,” means “the Negro” or “Nubian,” dark-skinned (Exo. 6:25; 1 Chr. 9:20). Phinehas, son of Eleazer. His wife was daughter of Putiel (Exo. 6:25).
- Phinehas stood in the gap to stop the plague (Number 25:11).
- “Putiel,” name provides an understanding of who her people were.
- “Put,” son of Ham, usually African people (Nah. 3:9; Jer. 46:9; Ezek.27:10; 30:5; 38:5)

#### **Remember:**

- Joseph’s sons Manasseh and Ephraim, who were born in Egypt (Africa)... Nubian.
- **Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim.**
- **70 people** into Egypt with Jacob – 400 years – 600,000 men came out Egypt (2 million).
- **Mixed race group of people fulfilled Gen. 12 & 15 promise.**

#### **More:**

- Jer. 43:7, Tahpanhes means “palace of the Negro.”
- Acts 13:1, Simeon who is call “Niger.”
- Num. 12:1, Moses wife “Zipporah, daughter of Jethro, who was a Cushite.
- Gershom and Eliezer were of African descent (Cush, son of Ham).

**Problem:**

- Not just a black problem, it's a Human Race problem.
- *“Those who created this machine” must also be just as involved with dismantling this systematic system if we are going to eradicate racism in our country.* –Joseph Brandt

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**6 BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS TO RECONCILE THIS SITUATION:**

- 1. Mercy** (Acts 16:20–21, Acts 8:3)

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- 2. Humility** (Acts 16:29)

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- 3. Jesus** (Acts 16:30-32)

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- 4. Washing Wounds** (Acts 16:33)

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- 5. Fellowship** (Matthew 8:11)

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- 6. Justice** (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23; Luke 18:3)

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